

# ALASKA STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

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Annual Report, 2001



## AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America – to make our people safer,  
smarter and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member and I will get things done.

## FROM THE DESK OF ...



Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer,  
Chair of the Alaska State Community Service Commission

Dear Friends,

It has been a pleasure to chair this important commission for the last two years. The Commission has worked effectively to increase community service in Alaska and to connect the many volunteer and service efforts in the state. The AmeriCorps programs in Alaska are strong and healthy and meet important community needs. Not only do the AmeriCorps members "get things done" in the communities they serve, they also grow into better citizens by developing an important ethic of service.

The Commission is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service at the federal level. Nearly two million dollars comes into Alaska annually to help support the AmeriCorps programs and the Commission's broader efforts to expand community service. This funding stream remains secure, as the new administration has clearly demonstrated support for the programs funded by the Corporation.

In addition to Alaska's AmeriCorps programs that involve nearly 200 AmeriCorps members, the Commission was also able to fund some service learning projects in schools. The early opportunity to learn to "give back" to the world in which we live is important to the development of good citizens. We have worked to focus on a plan to encourage service as part of the civic education in Alaska through our Learn and Serve Programs and our collaboration with the Alaska Democracy Project.

This year the Commission was also granted two America's Promise Fellowships. Those young members are just beginning their term of service, which will be dedicated to making Anchorage and Alaska better places for children. America's Promise was founded after the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in 1997, with General Colin Powell as its founding chairman. I was proud to be a part of Alaska's delegation to Philadelphia for the Summit, and am pleased that Alaska is moving forward with this important call to action.

This annual report will review the recent work of the Commission. I look to 2002 and beyond to see increased contributions to Alaska from people of all ages. The Commission is effective as an avenue to build the programs and the opportunities to serve.

*Fran Ulmer*

## NEW IN 2002

### AmeriCorps Promise Fellows



**A**merica's Promise is an organization established to elevate the status of children in America by inspiring greater commitment to making our communities safer and healthier for children by delivering five promises to children and youth around the country.

1. **Ongoing relationships with Caring Adults — parents, mentors, tutors, or coaches;**
2. **Safe Places with structured activities during non-school hours;**
3. **Healthy Start and future;**
4. **Marketable Skills through effective education; and**
5. **Opportunities to Serve and give back through community service.**

In addition to "getting things done" and "strengthening communities," AmeriCorps Promise Fellows work within an organization to help fulfill the Five Promises to children and youth. In 2002, The Alaska Community Service Commission will partner with the Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust and Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. to make Anchorage and Alaska full participants in the America's Promise program.



**Alaska Conference on Volunteerism — Strengthening Communities Through Service**  
**Hosted by Alaska's First Lady, Susan Knowles**  
**April 25 & 26, 2002**

**A**SCSC will host its first annual Conference on Volunteerism at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The mission of the conference is to increase community service and volunteerism in Alaska through information, skill building and collaborative networking opportunities. The conference will feature local and national speakers and will offer a variety of training sessions and roundtables. Recipients of the First Lady's Volunteer Awards and the Ellis Service Award will be honored by Alaska's First Lady Susan Knowles at a special closing ceremony.

**"I've been asked many times why I volunteer and the question seems obsolete for I cannot remember a time when there was not something I had to do for someone. It was part of our family upbringing...or maybe that we survived on the kindness of others and that it was our duty to do the same. With a world of people around us, someone will always need our help in some way or another... Life without doing for others is not living."**

*Freda Aron, AmeriCorps member, Sitka*



RAVEN AmeriCorps members reduced over 5 tons of waste in rural Alaskan communities by implementing recycling programs.



## ASCSC SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Since 1994, the Alaska State Community Service Commission has met its goal of increasing volunteerism and community service in Alaska. One of the Commission's primary functions is to oversee grants provided to local non-profit and community agencies to run national service programs like AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America.

### AmeriCorps



AmeriCorps — often referred to as the domestic Peace Corps — engages more than 50,000 Americans in intensive, results-driven service each year. In Alaska over 200 ASCSC-sponsored AmeriCorps members are improving their communities by teaching Alaskans to read, working with at-risk youth, addressing rural environmental concerns, working in shelters for abused women, and more. While the programs are based out of urban areas, members are placed statewide and often in their own communities and villages.

#### Southeast Alaska Guidance Association

**T**he Serve Alaska Youth Corps (SAYC) and the Rural Outreach Prevention Education (ROPE) programs are operated by the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association. 34 SAYC members serve as leaders on teams of disadvantaged youth working on service projects throughout the state. 10 ROPE members provide tutoring, mentoring, coaching, and prevention related activities to pre-k through 12th grade students in Southeast Alaska.

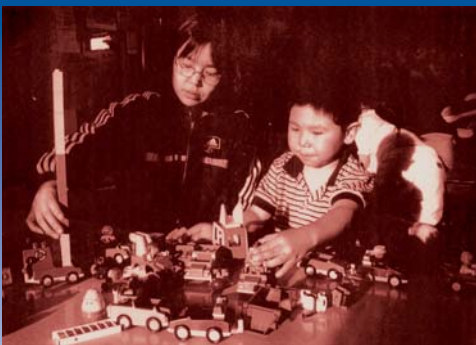


Serve Alaska Youth Corps AmeriCorps members participate in trail restoration activities.

#### RurAL CAP

**R**urAL CAP's Rural Alaska AmeriCorps Program (RAAP) has 35 members working in two programs - Addressing Rural Challenges Through Intergenerational Cooperation (ARCTIC) and the Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN). ARCTIC AmeriCorps members help rural Head Start programs develop community partnerships and enhance family literacy. Members also teach leadership skills and facilitate youth/elder mentor relationships. RAVEN AmeriCorps members implement education and environmental projects involving community members and organizations.

RurAL CAP also oversees the Students in Service AmeriCorps program. In a partnership between RurAL CAP and the University of Alaska Anchorage, eighty AmeriCorps members serve in social service agencies throughout Alaska to address human needs and improve social conditions through community service.



ARCTIC AmeriCorps members give one-on-one attention to Head Start children with special needs.

#### Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

**T**he AmeriCorps Community Advocacy for Non-Violence (AmeriCorps CAN) is coordinated through the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Twelve members placed at domestic violence and sexual assault intervention programs support ongoing efforts towards a non-violent culture while strengthening victims' access to advocacy services. When women and children are better able to navigate available services, a community is invariably strengthened.

**AmeriCorps Values**

We get things done.  
 We strengthen communities throughout Alaska.  
 We help participants develop valuable skills  
 with a strong sense of responsibility and civic pride.

**ASCSC Mission**

To foster, support and promote the ethic  
 of service and volunteerism and to engage  
 Alaskans of all ages and backgrounds in tangible,  
 results-oriented community projects.

**Nine Star Enterprises**

**T**wenty-five AmeriCorps Alaska Literacy Project members serve through Nine Star Enterprises to strengthen family literacy by providing instruction in basic literacy, functional life skills, and computer skills. The ten members of Nine Star's Digital Divide program work with disadvantaged youth in the use of the computer and the Internet.



9-Star AmeriCorps and VISTA members.

**Learn & Serve America**

Learn and Serve America engages students in structured, hands-on service projects that meet community needs and, at the same time, help participants develop personal, civic and academic skills. These activities, known as service-learning, build upon students' service activities by providing them with opportunities to learn by preparing, leading, and reflecting upon their service experience. ASCSC currently sponsors three Learn and Serve programs in Alaska.



Rural Alaska AmeriCorps  
 Program members participate  
 in team building exercises.

**Craig City Schools**

**T**he goal of Craig City School District's Youth Serve program is to increase academic achievement and personal development of its high school students. Approximately 100 students will participate in youth leadership and service learning activities.

**Yukon Koyukuk School District**

**Y**ukon Koyukuk School District has partnered with the residents of Manley Hot Springs in a project designed to mark historical summer and winter trail systems. Students at Gladys Dart School will work with the community to mark, clear, and map the trails while conducting historical research for development of an informational brochure.

**Anchorage School District**

**T**he vision of Wendler Middle School's Youth Serve Program is to help each student take their academic skills and provide a specific service to the community that will enhance their learning experience. Approximately 100 students will participate in service learning activities under this grant. Students will evaluate "mini-grant" applications for service projects and will apply to local charitable organizations for the opportunities to serve.

## Serving in Our Communities

**Akiak**  
RurAL CAP Head Start

**Alakanuk**  
RurAL CAP Head Start

**Anchorage**  
9-Star  
Abused Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC)  
Anchorage Literacy Project  
Anchorage Mutual Housing  
ASD Migrant Ed  
Boys and Girls Club  
Chester Valley Elementary School  
Creskide Park Elementary  
NorthStar Elementary  
Tudor Elementary

**Angoon**  
Tlingit-Haida Central Council

**Atka**  
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association

**Bettles Field**  
Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Chugiak**  
Chugiak Children's Services

**Clarks Point**  
Bristol Bay Native Association

**Cordova**  
Cordova Family Resource Center

**Craig**  
Tlingit-Haida Central Council

**Dillingham**  
Safe and Fear Free Environment (SAFE)

**Eagle**  
Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Eek**  
Association of Village Council Presidents

**Emmonak**  
Emmonak Women's Services  
Association of Village Council Presidents

**Fairbanks**  
Carol Brice Center  
Family Literacy Program

**Fort Yukon**  
Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Glenallen**  
PWSCC-Adult Basic Education Program

**Haines**  
Tlingit-Haida Central Council

**Homer**  
Kenai Peninsula College

**Hooper Bay**  
Association of Village Council Presidents

**Huslia**  
Tanana Chiefs Conference



## AmeriCorps National Direct

National non-profits and government organizations are funded directly through the Corporation. In Alaska, three

members currently serve at Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Inc.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

87 VISTA Volunteers serve in economically challenged communities in Alaska to foster self-sufficiency and to engage residents in job skills training, literacy programs, entrepreneurship, health education and community revitalization.

## AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps

Men and women age 18 to 24 spend ten months in a full-time residential service program that combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership and team building. NCCC members served in Alaska to assist with the 2001 Special Olympic World Games.

## Tribal Direct Programs

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides direct funding to two Tribal organizations. Currently in Alaska we have two AmeriCorps Tribal Direct programs.

### Tribal Civilian Conservation Corps

This 36 member residential program is modeled after the NCCC. Members undergo team-based cultural and professional training and then travel to villages where they participate in intensive community service projects.

### Tanana Chiefs Conference AmeriCorps

Ten AmeriCorps members serve Athabaskan villages in Interior Alaska. The members focus on participating in job readiness training, developing positive activities for youth, and expanding cross-generational activities.



## National Senior Service Corps

[Foster Grandparents](#) serve children with special needs; [Senior Companions](#) help other

seniors live independently; and volunteers with the [Retired and Senior Volunteer Program \(RSVP\)](#) meet a wide range of community needs. Currently there are about 600 Alaska seniors participating in these programs.



## Learn and Serve Direct Programs

The Corporation for National Service provides direct Learn and Serve funding to Tribal organizations and institutions

of higher education. Currently in Alaska we have five Learn and Serve direct programs.

### [The University of Alaska Anchorage Center for Community Engagement & Learning](#)

supports faculty engaged in community-based service-learning and research. Project initiatives include fostering student leadership and civic responsibility through youth empowerment in schools, awarding minigrants to foster university-community partnerships, and building community participation in neighborhoods.

[The Sitka Tribe of Alaska](#) works with the Sitka School District and the Sitka Native Education program to implement the state standards for Culturally Responsive Schools by integrating Alaska Native values of service into the school curriculum.

[The Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium](#) uses service learning to implement safe, efficient solid waste management and establish a student-led informational and supportive system for cleanup efforts. K-12 students also research and lead activities to clear traditionally used waterfront areas and trails.

[The Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium CHESP Program \(Community Health Education Sponsorship Program\)](#) is a partnership between UAF, Tanana Chiefs Conference, local health clinics, and Alaska Gateway and Copper River School Districts and village councils to provide health education opportunities to students and community members.

[The Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium Digital Divide Program](#) brings computer literacy programs into low income areas.

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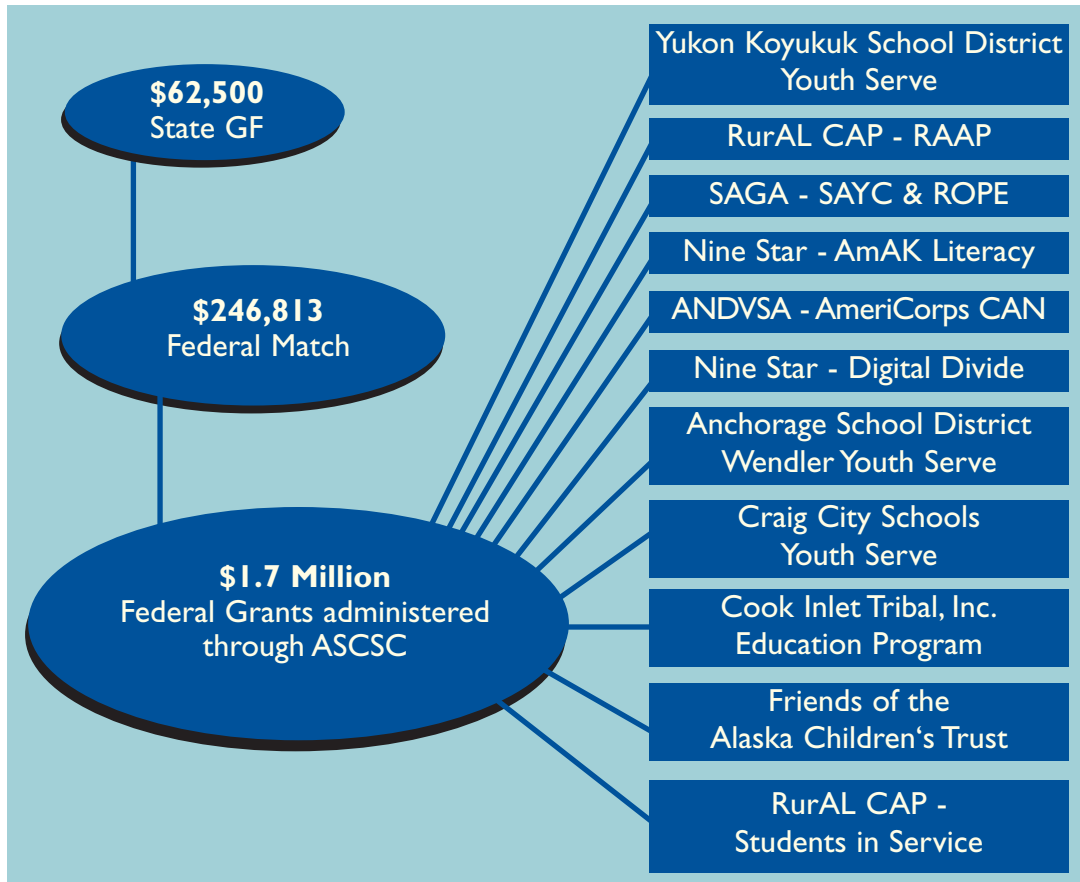
COMMUNITY

 SERVICE



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

With a small state appropriation, we are able to secure funding for the operation of the Alaska State Community Service Commission. Those funds allow for staff costs and training and for support of our AmeriCorps programs.



### Serving in Our Communities

#### Juneau

Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE)  
Boys and Girls Club of Juneau  
Juneau School District  
Southeast Regional Resource Center

#### Kasaan

Tlingit-Haida Central Council

#### Ketchikan

RurAL CAP Head Start  
Women In Safe Homes

#### Kivalina

Manilaq

#### Koliganek

Bristol Bay Native Association

#### Kwigillingok

Association of Village Council Presidents

#### Marshall

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### McGrath

Tanana Chiefs Conference

#### Mekoryuk

Association of Village Council Presidents

#### Mt. Village

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### New Stuyahok

Bristol Bay Native Association

#### Nondalton

Bristol Bay Native Association

#### Nunapitchuk

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### Palmer

Alaska Family Resource Center

#### Pilot Station

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### Ruby

Tanana Chiefs Conference

#### Selawik

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### Sitka

Baranof Elementary

Keet Gooshee Elementary

Pacific High School

Sitka High School

Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV)

UAS-Sitka Adult Education Center

#### Soldotna

KPC Adult Ed

#### Sterling

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### Tanacross

Tanana Chiefs Conference

#### Togiak

Bristol Bay Native Association

#### Tok

RurAL CAP Head Start

#### Twin Hills

Bristol Bay Native Association

#### Valdez

PWSCC-Adult Basic Education Program



ARCTIC AmeriCorps members work to span the generational gap by providing opportunities for elders and youth to work together.

### ALASKA STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

#### Meeting Agenda

FEBRUARY 19, 20, 2002

Juneau, Alaska

#### ASCSC Commission meeting

Legislative visits

MARCH 13-15, 2002

San Diego, California

#### CNS Regional Conference

Commissioner and Staff Training

APRIL 25, 26, 2002

Anchorage, Alaska

#### Commission meeting in conjunction with Statewide Conference on Volunteerism

JUNE 9-12, 2002

Salt Lake City, Utah

#### National Conference on Community Volunteerism and National Service

JUNE 19, 20, 2002

Girdwood, Alaska

#### ASCSC Commission Retreat

October 28, 2002

#### ASCSC Commission meeting

National Make A Difference Day

## Notes from the Executive Director

Alaska's AmeriCorps programs are meeting community needs across the state. Our management of those grants through the Department of Education and Early Development is both rewarding and challenging.

The greatest rewards come from visiting the programs and seeing AmeriCorps members really "Getting things Done." Last year in the village of Nanwalek I followed an eager AmeriCorps member to the landfill so he could show me the tremendous work he and a group of volunteers had done to resolve the solid waste problems of the village. I've had a chance to see the dedicated members at Nine-Star help young adults study for the GED and work on their job interview skills. I felt blessed to spend a couple of hours with an AmeriCorps member at the Sitka Women's Shelter while she shared heartfelt information about her term of service. I saw the team of enthusiastic AmeriCorps youth building low income houses in Sitka and another team improving the trails near Girdwood. And, I shared the pride of watching all the AmeriCorps members who helped to make the Special Olympics World Winter Games such a success.

The challenges come in the paperwork that is extensive when federal and state systems meet and collide. We have multiple sets of guidelines, rules and regulations that must be followed in order for our programs to continue to thrive and for our overall efforts in service to increase in Alaska. I'm thankful for a great group of commissioners and our staff here at the Department of Education and Early Development in these endeavors. We continue to take on new challenges like America's Promise and the first state conference on volunteerism because AmeriCorps is a means to making Alaska a better place by "Getting Things Done."

*Judy*

### ASCSC Commissioners

Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, Chair  
 Nancy S. Freymiller, Vice-Chair  
 Nancy Andes  
 Erlinda O. Augustine  
 Nicholas R. Charles Jr.  
 Yvonne Chase  
 Elaine M. Dahlgren  
 Tom Gallagher  
 Wilson Justin  
 Shannon Kempton  
 Denise R. Morris  
 Karl Ohls  
 Taber Rehbaum  
 Trena Richardson  
 Anna Bell Stevens  
 Sharon L. White-Wheeler  
 Billie Joe Caldwell, ex-officio member

### Commission Staff

Judy Salo, Executive Director  
 Kattaryna Stiles, Program Coordinator  
 Chery White, Secretary



Commissioners Anna Bell Stevens and Elaine Dahlgren share a laugh with Leon Panetta, former White House Chief of Staff and Judy Salo, ASCSC Executive Director.

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